

AT&T: all broken up

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House sets stage for future budget negotiations

By Dean Kahn and Joe Lamba
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — A battle appears inevitable in the House this week when it takes up a proposed \$2.3 billion state revenue budget.

On one side are lawmakers intent on pushing through more money for schools. On the other are legislators determined to defend the bare-bones budget sent to the floor by the House Budget Committee.

And waiting downfield is Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Edwin Dirck, D-St. Ann, who warns that even the bare-bones budget is too fat.

Dirck last week accused House Speaker Robert Griffin, D-Cameron, of planning to railroad through a highly inflated budget that Republican Gov. Christopher Bond then would have to take the politically unpopular step of cutting.

"But the Senate won't go along with it," Dirck said of the alleged political gamesmanship. "We will pass a balanced budget."

The confrontation shaping up in the House will set the stage for future budget negotiations between the House and Senate. Leading the charge of education's champions is Rep. Gary Sharpe, D-Hannibal. The chairman of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee plans to ask for another \$34 million in funding for public schools; an allocation of \$699 million was approved by the budget committee.

The \$34 million would replace money Bond withheld last fall from school appropriations for the current fiscal year.

Sharpe does not view his plan as a budget-busting maneuver. Instead, he considers it a means of demonstrating appropriate regard for school funding before the budget is sent to the Senate.

Colleges and universities will get help from Rep. Harry Hill, D-Novinger. He plans to ask for \$16 million more than the budget committee's \$355.7 request for higher education.

Hill's proposal would bring higher education's share of state funds up to the same level it was to receive for the current year —

before the governor ordered that 5 percent be withheld last fall when it became obvious that state income would not keep pace with its planned spending.

Under Hill's proposal, the University system would receive \$6 million more than the \$163.4 million approved by the committee. And University Hospital would have \$520,000 tacked onto its recommended \$12.5 million budget.

Griffin said he expects the education forces to win the House floor fight. But Rep. Marvin Proffer, D-Jackson, House Budget Committee chairman, said Hill and Sharpe may succeed only in raising false hope among the state's educators. Any increase in school budgets in the House likely would be beaten down in the Senate or withheld when the governor realizes once more that proposed expenditures outweigh income, Proffer said.

"We're in worse shape than January," said Proffer, adding that the state has suffered increases in the cost of its welfare programs and unexpected setbacks in court that will inflate expenditures during the coming

fiscal year. These include:

- A March court ruling that could add up to \$31 million to the costs of Medicaid reimbursements to private nursing homes. The ruling also squelched a plan to free up another \$20 million to deal with state problems. The money would have come from a plan to substitute federal money for state funds in certain mental health programs.

- State officials estimate from \$8 million to \$10 million will be needed next year for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

- The state could be saddled with from \$17 million to \$77 million to cover the cost of a new school desegregation program plan in St. Louis. A federal judge is expected to decide on the plan within the next few weeks.

- The governor has submitted an emergency funding request for the nursing home reimbursements program and AFDC. The request is for \$6.8 million in state and federal funds to carry the programs through June.

Those, Proffer says, have thrown a wrench into projections on how much money will be

available to finance state programs next year.

In addition, the Bond administration has said it will have to delay up to \$100 million in state payments beginning as early as July. That money would be used to cover the state's daily and monthly cash-flow needs.

State officials say the \$100 million delay will be necessary because lawmakers failed to approve the governor's request for expanded short-term borrowing authority in time for a June 7 special election.

Those money problems give heightened urgency to the coming House debate — one anticipated by legislators displeased by the efforts of colleagues determined to carve out more money for education.

Rep. Bud Barnes, R-Kirkwood, a veteran of the House Budget Committee, is especially adamant.

"Nobody cares about anyone else," he complained. "They're doing it without respect for the budget."

More money for education is an idle dream, Dirck said. "It's not going to happen."

Ocean dream Local woman's brother makes record-breaking Atlantic trip

By Lydia Locklin
Missourian staff writer

Some people say dreams are for those who sleep.

But when Wayne Dickinson fell asleep on his dream cruise, he crashed into the Irish coast and wrecked a boat he had worked on for 10 years. He was upset but unharmed — remarkable since he just had spent 142 days crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a boat not big enough to stand in.

His boat was not all he destroyed. He shaved three inches off the world record for the smallest boat to cross the Atlantic west-to-east.

Dickinson's sister, Belinda Dickinson, is chief resident at University Hospital's ear, nose and throat clinic. She tells her brother's story amid a clutter of news clippings from around the nation that tell the same tale. Often she quips, "I'm biased, of course."

Ms. Dickinson says her 39-year-old brother's dramatic landing March 20 on Aranmore Island in Ireland satisfied an itch he claimed to have had ever since childhood. "But he never said anything to me about it," she says.

The family always has been at home around water, she says, but it was a shock when her brother said he wanted to sail across the Atlantic in a handmade boat. Dickinson's mother, Peggy Dickinson, feared for his life. His father, Navy officer John Dickinson, flatly said it could not be done.

But Dickinson ignored the warnings and 10 years ago began building his boat. He drew on his lifetime knowledge of sailing and modified his craft many times as he besieged libraries for books on solo sailing.

He christened the 8-foot 11-inch-long fiberglass creation "God's Tear."

He was so engrossed with the project that three years ago he quit his job as a computer technician to work on the boat full time.

He installed a Citizens' Band radio and electronic navigational equipment, connecting both to a central battery and shielded the equipment in plexiglass. The finishing touch — a huge painting of an eagle on the stern — brought the actual cost of his dream to \$27,000.

"I was convinced it would never sink once I got inside it," Ms. Dickinson says. "He filled it with water, and it still wouldn't sink."

Dickinson sailed out of Hull Harbor, Mass., on Oct. 20. He expected to reach England in about 70 days. Two weeks later, a storm off the Canadian coast destroyed his communications equipment. For the rest of the voyage, he reverted to the ancient navigational system of using the stars, horizon and time of year to plot his course.

When nobody heard from her brother for several months, Ms. Dickinson says her mother began receiving cards of condolence. But on Jan. 25, a Panamanian freighter saw a flare and found Dickinson — about 100 miles north of where he was supposed to be. He just wanted directions to Great Britain.

He reached the Irish coast March 19, but the grip of the current kept him from landing. Ms. Dickinson says. He set the automatic steering to take him to Scotland and went to sleep. But the wind shifted, and by the time he awoke he was careening at 40 knots — about 45 mph — toward the rocky coast.

"It was a remarkable thing to do, and what's even more remarkable is



Belinda Dickinson and one of the many newspaper clippings about her brother

the way it ended," Ms. Dickinson says. Her brother left the fragments of the boat and stood — for the first time in five months — then climbed a 300-foot cliff and hiked 1½ miles to a lighthouse where the guardian was making an unscheduled mid-day check.

"You can just say 'coincidence' so many times," Ms. Dickinson says. "Wayne left and he said, 'I'm going to make it.' He had a communication

with God, and he knew he was protected. He's always believed in one God and one direction." She says her brother believes God led the way across the ocean.

Ms. Dickinson and her mother joined Dickinson in Ireland after his landing. The pair had to fight their way through the reporters to get to him. "The English papers went wild over him," Ms. Dickinson says. They were joined by NBC, CBS, the

BBC, the Irish Live Independent Network and the Good Morning America show. The press coverage lasted five days.

Ms. Dickinson is critical of the press' casual treatment of her brother. "Sixty years ago it was like — Charles Lindbergh, a man conquering the impossible. Now it's like — fine, but what's on 'Dukes of Hazzard' tonight?" she says.

But she says it does not really mat-

ter. "He did it for himself," she adds. "It was better for him to have a dream than to have no dream, like most people."

On Aranmore Island, children crowded around Dickinson and begged for stories of his adventure. Ms. Dickinson says. The residents are writing a ballad about the American sailor who landed on their piece of the world.

"That's what lasts," she says.

Doctors disagree on use of drugs for ear disease

By Adriane Reynert
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Doctors usually treat one of the most common diseases of childhood — otitis media with effusion, or "fluid ear" — with antihistamines and decongestants.

But researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine have found that these drugs are no more effective than placebos in curing the ailment.

Not everyone agrees with their findings, however. Other doctors have criticized the report, published in the Feb. 10 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, for ignoring that the drugs may make children more comfortable while they are getting better. Doctors also have called the study too narrow to produce broad conclusions.

The accumulation of fluid in the middle ear can result in mild hear-

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ing loss. Even modest hearing impairment can be a severe handicap to young children, who are learning more rapidly than at any other time in their lives.

Often a child suffering from the disease will turn silent and avoid communication, said Dr. Ralph Naunton, director of communicative disorders at the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke. The institute funded the \$322,040 three-year study at the University of Pittsburgh.

Because the disease is so prevalent, its costs are significant. Treatment — including diagnosis, drugs and surgery — costs between \$1 billion and \$2 billion each year, said

TODAY

8:30 a.m. The Human Race V, originating at Memorial Stadium
3 p.m. The University Symphonic Band, Jesse Auditorium, free
7 p.m. "Morning Glory" and "The Lion in Winter," Memorial Union auditorium, free.
8 p.m. "Decameron," Ellis Library auditorium, free.

Spring ahead

It's that time of the year, and if you have not set your clocks ahead an hour, you better do it now because Daylight Savings Time went into effect at 2:01 a.m.

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Questions persist as Murray trial nears

By Mark Weaver
Missourian staff writer

On the surface all is quiet, but underneath a controversy is brewing over the many unanswered questions in the Jan. 18 shooting death of Darryl Murray.

The trial date for Robert Wayne Murray, 24, who is charged with manslaughter in his adoptive father's death, will be set on May 2 by Circuit Court Judge Frank Conley. Murray originally was charged by Prosecutor Joe Moseley with second-degree murder, but a grand jury indicted him Feb. 18 on the lesser charge.

After the jury handed down the manslaughter charge, Moseley was contacted by members of the Murray family who favored a more serious charge, Moseley said. Darryl Murray's parents, Gene and Joyce Murray, 1 Spring Valley Road, and a foster son, Stephen Boyer, presented unspecified evidence to Moseley and

his investigator, Bob Muse, Moseley said.

But Moseley said the family's information is insufficient to warrant a change in the charge.

"The information I have received from them doesn't change the case very much," Moseley said.

If nine of 12 grand jurors do not find sufficient evidence to hand down a second-degree murder indictment, Moseley said, it is unlikely that a trial jury would convict Robert on the charge. Nine grand jury votes are necessary to issue an indictment, while a unanimous vote would be needed for conviction in a trial court.

"It was a grand jury decision," Moseley said. "I have my doubts that a petit jury would be any more harsh than a grand jury."

Moseley added that he is empowered to change the charge if the evidence justifies it.

Since Murray's death, the prosecution and defense have compiled an impressive stockpile of paperwork

Because of the volume of evidence and reports involved in the case, Tim Harlan, Robert Murray's attorney, has asked Conley not to schedule the trial before May 15, according to court records.

The police report alone runs 140 pages, and several depositions have been taken. "Evidence seized from the home of Darryl Murray consists of several thousand documents and items," Harlan's continuance motion reads.

In addition to evidence stemming from the slaying, Harlan has subpoenaed reports, memorandums and statements collected by police Sgt. Carol Highbarger in the investigation of a child sex abuse charge against Darryl Murray in 1973. Highbarger was the prosecutor's investigator at that time. The charge was dropped by former Prosecutor Mill Harper because of a lack of evidence.

The Murray family has not located

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